

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Baer et al. (6,611,840) in view of Morgenthaler et al. (2002/0032677). However, as noted above, Applicants have provided the required declaration showing conception prior to the effective date, 01/21/2000, of Baer. Consequently, Baer is removed from further consideration. Note also that the effective date of Morgenthaler and its parent application come after the effective date of Baer. Morgenthaler should also be removed from further consideration.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12 under U.S.C. 103(a) because the documents cited no longer apply in this application.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 04/01/04

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Attachment: Declaration
Exhibit A
One month extension of time